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Application No.: 10/596,865

Title of Invention: Fast-Erecting Portable Structure

Applicant's File No.: PHJM0681-008

Filing Date: June 27, 2006

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (original) A fast-erecting portable structure comprising:
  - a first flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the first flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle,
  - a second flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the second flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, and wherein the second flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod near the apex of the inverted u-shape,
  - a flexible skin, the flexible skin slidably connected to the middle of the first flexible framing rod, slidably connected to the middle of the second flexible framing rod, non-removably connected to the two ends of the first flexible framing rods, and non-removably connected to the two ends of second flexible framing rod,

and wherein the two ends of the first flexible framing rod and the two ends of the second flexible framing rod act as a base of the fast-erecting portable structure.
2. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 1 wherein the first and second flexible framing rods are slidably connected to the flexible skin by the use of sleeves.
3. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 2 wherein of the sleeves are made of material substantially similar to the flexible skin of the tent.

4. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 2 wherein the first and second flexible framing rods are slidably connected to the flexible skin of the tent by sleeves sewn into the flexible skin along substantially the length of the sleeves.
5. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 2 wherein the first and second flexible framing rods are slidably connected to the flexible skin of the tent by intermittent sleeves sewn into the flexible skin.
6. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 1 further comprising a fly and a fly framing rod, the fly framing rod having two ends and a middle, the fly non-removably connected to the two ends of the fly framing rod and the fly removably connected to the portable structure.
7. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 1 further comprising a third flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the third flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, and wherein the third flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod and the second flexible framing rod near the apex of the inverted u-shape, and wherein the flexible skin is removably connected to the middle of the third flexible framing rod and non-removably connected to the two ends of third flexible framing rod.
8. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 7 further comprising a fourth flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the fourth flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, and wherein the fourth flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod and the second flexible framing rod near the apex of the inverted u-shape, and wherein the flexible skin is removably connected to the middle of the fourth flexible framing rod and non-removably connected to the two ends of fourth flexible framing rod.

9. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 8 further comprising a fly and a fly framing rod, the fly framing rod having two ends and a middle, the fly non-removably connected to the two ends of the fly framing rod and the fly removably connected to the portable structure.
10. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 7 wherein the third flexible framing rod is removably connected to the flexible skin by a plurality of framing rod hooks, the framing rod hooks being non-removably connected to the flexible skin.
11. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 7 wherein the flexible framing rods are constructed from material selected from the group consisting of steel, spring wire, plastic rod, fiberglass and structural polymer material.
12. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 7 wherein the flexible framing rods move independently of each other.
13. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 7 wherein the flexible skin comprises material selected from the group consisting of nylon and polyester and cotton.
14. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 7 wherein the flexible skin is connected to at least one flexible framing rod near the intersection of the framing rods by a flexible tie.
15. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 1 further comprising a third flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the third flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, and wherein the third flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod and the second flexible framing rod at a location offset from where the first flexible framing rod and the second flexible framing rod cross each other, and wherein the flexible skin is removably connected to the middle of the third

flexible framing rod and non-removably connected to the two ends of third flexible framing rod.

16. (original) The fast-erecting portable structure of claim 15 further comprising a fourth flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the fourth flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, and wherein the fourth flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod and the second flexible framing rod at a location offset from where the first flexible framing rod and the second flexible framing rod cross each other, and wherein the flexible skin is removably connected to the middle of the third flexible framing rod and non-removably connected to the two ends of third flexible framing rod.
17. (previously amended under Article 34) A storage bag for storing a fast-erecting portable structure having flexible rods, the storage bag comprising,
  - a front sheet having a front sheet perimeter, a front sheet inside face, a front sheet outside face, an opening flap, and an opening flap perimeter, wherein the distance between the opening flap perimeter and the front sheet perimeter is at least one inch,
  - a back sheet having a back sheet perimeter, a back sheet inside face, a back sheet outside face, and a first pocket, wherein the first pocket is connected to the back sheet inside face near the back sheet perimeter and the front sheet perimeter is connected to the back sheet perimeter, wherein the first pocket is oriented to receive the ends of the flexible rods.
18. (original) The storage bag of claim 17 further comprising a spacer having a first edge and a second edge, wherein the first edge of the spacer is connected to the front sheet perimeter and the second edge of the spacer is connected to the back sheet perimeter.

19. (original) The storage bag of claim 18 further comprising a second pocket connected to the inside face of the front sheet near the perimeter.
20. (original) The storage bag of claim 19, wherein the first pocket further comprises a first opening and the second pocket further comprises a second opening and wherein the first opening and the second opening face in opposite directions.
21. (original) The storage bag of claim 17 further comprising a zipper connected to the front sheet along the opening flap perimeter.
22. (original) The storage bag of claim 17 wherein the storage bag is in the shape of a circular disk.
23. (original) The storage bag of claim 17 wherein the storage bag is in the shape of an elongated circular disk.
24. (original) A method of stowing a fast-erecting portable structure comprising the steps of:  
  
obtaining a fast-erecting tent having a flexible skin, a first flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, a second flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, wherein the flexible skin is slidably connected to the middle of the first flexible framing rod, slidably connected to the middle of the second flexible framing rod, non-removably connected to the two ends of the first flexible framing rods, and non-removably connected to the two ends of second flexible framing rod, and wherein when the fast-erecting portable structure is released, the first flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, and the second flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, and wherein the second flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod near

the apex of the inverted u-shape, and the flexible skin, supported by the first flexible framing rod and the second flexible framing rod, forms a dome shape,

obtaining a storage bag comprising a front sheet having a front sheet perimeter, a first inside face, a first outside face, and an opening flap, wherein the opening flap has an opening flap wherein the distance between the opening flap perimeter and the front sheet perimeter is at least one inch, a back sheet having a back sheet perimeter, a second inside face, a second outside face, and a first pocket connected near the back sheet perimeter, wherein the front sheet perimeter is connected to the back sheet perimeter,

rotating the first framing rod relative to the second framing rod so that the first framing rod is roughly parallel to the second framing rod,

Inserting either ends of the first framing rod and the second framing rod into the first pocket,

Incrementally coiling the first framing rod and the second framing rod into the storage bag,

stuffing the flexible skin into the storage bag, and

Closing the storage bag.

25. (original) A method of stowing a fast-erecting portable structure comprising the steps of:

obtaining a fast-erecting tent having a flexible skin, a first flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, a second flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, wherein the flexible skin is slidably connected to the middle of the first flexible framing rod, slidably connected to the middle of the second flexible framing rod, non-removably connected to the two ends of the first flexible

framing rods, and non-removably connected to the two ends of second flexible framing rod, a third flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the third flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, and wherein the third flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod and the second flexible framing rod near the apex of the inverted u-shape, and wherein the flexible skin is removably connected to the middle of the third flexible framing rod and and non-removably connected to the two ends of third flexible framing rod and wherein when the fast-erecting portable structure is released, the first flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, the second flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, and the third flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, and wherein the first, second and third flexible framing rods cross each other near the apex of the inverted u-shapes, and the flexible skin, supported by the first, second and third flexible framing rods forms a dome shape,

obtaining a storage bag comprising a front sheet having a front sheet perimeter, a first inside face, a first outside face, and an opening flap, wherein the opening flap has an opening flap wherein the distance between the opening flap perimeter and the front sheet perimeter is at least one inch, a back sheet having a back sheet perimeter, a second inside face, a second outside face, and a first pocket connected near the back sheet perimeter, wherein the front sheet perimeter is connected to the back sheet perimeter,

rotating the first framing rod relative to the second framing rod so that the first framing rod is roughly parallel to the second framing rod,

Inserting either ends of the first framing rod and the second framing rod into the first pocket,

Incrementally coiling the first framing rod and the second framing rod into the storage bag,

stuffing the flexible skin into the storage bag, and

Closing the storage bag.

26. (original) A fast-erecting portable structure system comprising:

a flexible skin, a first flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, a second flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle,

wherein the flexible skin is slidably connected to the middle of the first flexible framing rod, slidably connected to the middle of the second flexible framing rod, non-removably connected to the two ends of the first flexible framing rods, and non-removably connected to the two ends of second flexible framing rod, and

wherein when the fast-erecting portable structure is released, the first flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, and the second flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, and wherein the second flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod near the apex of the inverted u-shape and the flexible skin, supported by the first flexible framing rod and the second flexible framing rod, forms a dome shape, and

a storage bag having an interior pocket, wherein the first flexible framing rod, the second flexible framing rod and the flexible skin can be coiled and stowed inside the storage bag.

27. (previously amended under Article 34) A fast-erecting portable structure system comprising:

a flexible skin, a first flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, a second flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, and a third flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle,

wherein the flexible skin is slidably connected to the middle of the first flexible framing rod, slidably connected to the middle of the second flexible framing rod, removably connected to the middle of the third flexible framing rod, non-removably connected to the two ends of the first flexible framing rods, and non-removably connected to the two ends of second flexible framing rod, non-removably connected to the two ends of the third flexible framing rod, and

wherein when the fast-erecting portable structure is released, the first flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, and the second flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, the third flexible framing rod forms substantially into an inverted u-shape, and wherein the second flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod and the third flexible framing rod near the apex of the inverted u-shape and the flexible skin, supported by the first flexible framing rod, the second flexible framing rod and the third flexible framing rod, forms a dome shape,

a storage bag having an interior pocket, wherein the first flexible framing rod, the second flexible framing rod and the flexible skin can be coiled and stowed inside the storage bag.

28. (previously added under Article 34) A fast-erecting tent system comprising:

A storage device,

a fast-erecting tent stored by the storage device, the fast erecting tent comprising a first flexible framing rod, the first flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, a second flexible framing rod, the second flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, a flexible skin, the flexible skin slidably connected to the middle of the first flexible framing rod, slidably connected to the middle of the second flexible framing rod, non-removably connected to the two ends of the first flexible framing rods, and non-removably connected to the two ends of second flexible framing rod,

wherein when the fast-erecting tent is released from the storage device, the fast-erecting tent springs into shape.

29. (previously added under Article 34) A fast-erecting portable structure comprising:

a first flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the first flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle,

a second flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the second flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, and wherein the second flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod near the apex of the inverted u-shape,

a non-divisible flexible skin, the divisible flexible skin slidably connected to the middle of the first flexible framing rod, slidably connected to the middle of the second flexible framing rod, non-removably connected to the two ends of the first flexible framing rods, and non-removably connected to the two ends of second flexible framing rod,

and wherein the two ends of the first flexible framing rod and the two ends of the second flexible framing rod act as a base of the fast-erecting portable structure.

30. (previously added under Article 34) A fast-erecting portable structure comprising:

a first flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the first flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, the first flexible framing rod being non-jointed,

a second flexible framing rod formed substantially into an inverted u-shape, the second flexible framing rod having two ends and a middle, and wherein the second flexible framing rod crosses the first flexible framing rod near the apex of the inverted u-shape, the second flexible framing rod being non-jointed,

a flexible skin, the flexible skin slidably connected to the middle of the first flexible framing rod, slidably connected to the middle of the second flexible framing rod, non-removably connected to the two ends of the first flexible framing rods, and non-removably connected to the two ends of second flexible framing rod,

and wherein the two ends of the first flexible framing rod and the two ends of the second flexible framing rod act as a base of the fast-erecting portable structure.